

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05683 192322Z
ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 5683

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SOPN, DR, JM
SUBJECT: EL CARIBE COMPLAINT AGAINST AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

REF: (A) SANTO DOMINGO 3131, (B) STATE 149354, (C) KINGSTON 5026

1. ALTHOUGH AWARE THAT THIS EMBASSY WOULD PREFER NOT TO GET INVOLVED
IN THE ISSUE, OLIVER CLARKE SENT THE AMBASSADOR THE LATEST LETTER FROM

GERMAN ORNES, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF EL CARIBE, DATED JULY 4, 1978.
IT IS QUOTED BELOW. CLARKE HAD SENT REFTEL (C) LETTER TO ORNES AND
ORNES' LETTER IS THIS RESPONSE. CLARKE REMARKED TO THE AMBASSADOR
THAT HE THOUGHT REFTEL (C) WAS A FINE RESPONSE WHEREAS ORNES'
RESPONSE TO IT IS "TOO EMOTIONAL TO PURSUE FURTHER".

2. BEGIN QUOTE:
MR. OLIVER F. CLARKE
MANAGING DIRECTOR
THE GLEANER COMPANY LIMITED
7 NORTH STREET
P.O. BOX 40
KINGSTON, JAMAICA, W.I.
DEAR OLIVE:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PREOCCUPATION WITH THE AMERICAN
EMBASSY INTERFERENCE WITH MY RIGHTS AS AN INDEPENDENT AND FREE EDITOR.

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I DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN AND I THINK YOUR INQUIRY WAS VERY
OPPORTUNE.

I ALREADY KNEW THAT AMERICAN OFFICIALS WERE DENYING THAT THEY HAD
REQUESTED A FAVORABLE EDITORIAL. I CAN ASSURE THAT IF ANYONE IS
LYING IN THIS CASE, I AM NOT THE ONE. THE AMERICAN PRESS OFFICER,
MR HOLLY BELL, NOT ONLY REQUESTED AN EDITORIAL BUT DID IT IN A VERY
INSISTENT MANNER. HE TOLD ME THAT THE "IMAGE" OF MY COUNTRY WAS IN

JEOPARDY AND ASKED ME IF I WOULD NOT PRINT AN EDITORIAL ABOUT MR. VANCE'S STATEMENTS. I REFUSED BECAUSE IN MY JUDGMENT, SUCH STATEMENT WAS CHARGED WITH INTERVENTIONIST OVERTONES. ALTHOUGH THE SUBSEQUENT THREATS WERE NOT DIRECTLY COMMUNICATED TO ME, THEY WERE TRANSMITTED TO MY SON BY A RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT WHOSE CREDIBILITY I HAVE NO REASON TO CHALLENGE. HOWEVER, IF THEY WANT TO LET BYGONES BE BYGONES, IT IS ALL RIGHT WITH ME.

RECENTLY, MR. BELL TOLD A FRIEND OF MINE, WHO ASKED HIM ABOUT THE INCIDENT, THAT HIS VISIT TO ME ON MAY 17TH WAS ONLY A MATTER OF COURTESY IN ORDER TO COMMUNICATE SOMETHING OF IMPORTANCE REGARDING THE RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS GOVERNMENT AND MINE. I CAN TELL YOU THAT NEVER BEFORE HAD I RECEIVED SUCH AN EXPRESSION OF COURTESY FROM AN AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL. MOREOVER, THE WIRE SERVICES HAD ALREADY FILED THE COMPLETE TEXT OF MR. VANCE'S STATEMENTS BEFORE THE VISIT OF MR. BELL TO ME AND I CONSIDER THAT IT IS WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF MY DISCRETION, AS A RESPONSIBLE EDITOR, TO JUDGE, WITHOUT THE HELP N AMERICAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL, WHETHER TO PRINT IN FULL OR NOT AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF A FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.

I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT IT IS NOT MY INTENTION TO CONDUCT A FEUD OVER THIS INCIDENT. NEITHER DO I WANT TO PRESENT MYSELF AS A MARTYR. YET, I FEEL IN NO MOOD TO LET ANYONE TO CONVEY THE IMPRESSION THAT I'M EITHER A LIAR OR A HYSTERICAL PERSON. IT I REPORTED THE WHOLE INCIDENT TO MR. JAMES CANEL WAS ONLY BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE THREATS WERE QUITE DANGEROUS. AS YOU WELL KNOW, IF IT WANTS, THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAVE MULTIPLE MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL TO HARASS AND HURT A FOREIGNER, ESPECIALLY ONE WHO HAS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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TRAVEL SO MUCH AS I HAVE TO DO. THUS, IF IN THE FUTURE THERE IS ANY RETALIATION, THE IAPA AND ITS MEMBERS WILL KNOW THAT WHEN THE EMBASSY OFFICIALS THREATENED ME THEY REALLY MEANT BUSINESS. THAT WILL ALSO SHOW THAT I HAVE BEEN TRUTHFUL.

SINCE I WANT TO KEEP THE IAPA HEADQUARTERS WELL INFORMED ABOUT THIS CASE, I AM TAKING THE LIBERTY OF SENDING MR. CANEL A COPY OF OUR

CORRESPONDENCE AS WELL AS A COPY OF THE ANNEX TO YOUR LETTER. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL NOT OBJECT TO THIS PROCEDURE.

ONCE MORE I WANT CONVEY TO YOU, MY DEEP FEELING OF GRATITUDE. WITH KIND REGARDS. MOST SINCERELY, GERMAN E. ORNES, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER. END QUOTE.
IRVING

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